

(Daniel, J.C. 1983). It prefers insects but may occasionally take birds, nestlings, frogs and other small animals. Thus the preying on its own juveniles

seems to be the first record.

January 7, 1991

SATISH KUMAR SHARMA

22. SOUTHERN GREEN CALOTES *CALOTES CALOTES* (LINN.) AT BANDIPUR

During our visit to the Bandipur Tiger Reserve (11°40' to 11°55' N, 76° 07' to 76°52' E) on 21 May 1988, we came across a southern green calotes *Calotes calotes* lying dead in the middle of Nilagiri road (about 3 km from the reception center) that passes through Bandipur and Mudumalai forests. The reptile, identified as per Smith (1935), had possibly been hit by a passing vehicle as its belly was ruptured and the entrails exposed, though most of its body was intact. On close examination, we counted seven whitish, oval-shaped, fully formed eggs within its belly.

Daniel (1983) considers the species to be chiefly arboreal, but this specimen with well formed eggs

indicates that it may have been in search of an egg-laying site when it was killed, as the species is known to lay eggs in a hole in the ground (Daniel 1983).

The present sighting is the first record of the species in Bandipur and it has not been recorded during a previous survey there (Malhotra and Sahi 1982), although it is widely distributed in southern India. Though Murthy (1985) mentions that the species breeds in September, our observation of this female with fully formed eggs indicates that the species breeds in May also.

February 5, 1991

J.N. PRASAD

M.S. JAYANTH

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23. BIFURCATED TAILED SKINK *LEIOLOPISMA HIMALAYANUM* (GUNTHER) FROM KINNAUR DISTRICT, HIMACHAL PRADESH

During the recent faunistic surveys of the high altitude areas of Kinnaur district in the Great Himalaya, a unique specimen of the skink *Leiopisma himalayana* with its tail bifurcated was collected from the bank of the river Vaspri in the Sangla valley. The bifurcation of the tail involves two-thirds of its length. Body length (snout to vent) was 65 mm. The other details are given below:

Material examined: 1 ex. Rakhcham, 16 km from Sangla, district Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh, 4 Nov. 1988, M. Chandra (deposited in HAZFS, ZSI collection).

The literature indicates that herpetological fauna of Kinnaur district is yet to be studied (THE FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, Smith, M.A. 1935, THE BOOK OF INDIAN REPTILES, Daniel, J.C. 1983). It is worth recording that the population density of this species is very high in the Sangla valley as observed during two surveys in 1988. Further, the present record extends its range of distribution well north of Shimla hills.

March 28, 1991

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